



WORKING GROUP ON ALCOHOL REGULATION POLICY

Meeting. The Working Group on Alcohol Regulation Policy met on Wednesday, October 19, 2016, at the FFA Enhancement Center on the DMACC Campus in Ankeny, Iowa. The Working Group, which was established by the Iowa Alcoholic Beverages Division (IABD) in cooperation with the Iowa Economic Development Authority (IEDA), is tasked with taking a comprehensive look at Iowa's current alcohol regulation policy and the challenges that the three-tier distribution system presents for various members of the alcoholic beverage industry.

Discussion. After a brief opening statement by IEDA Director Debi Durham, the Working Group was presented with an overview of the historical and current state of Iowa's enforcement of alcohol-related laws. Heather Schaefer, Compliance Officer at the IABD, led a discussion on alcohol regulation on three levels: federal, state, and local. As part of its regulatory duties, the IABD also follows an investigative process in response to alleged alcohol policy violations. Violations such as bootlegging and the serving and consumption of alcohol by minors are investigated by the IABD in collaboration with state and local law enforcement.

At its October 19 meeting, the Working Group also heard several presentations by various industry members, including representatives of the Iowa Brewer's Guild, 515 Brewing Company of Des Moines, Peace Tree Brewing of Knoxville, and Toppling Goliath Brewing of Decorah. Each industry member representative provided a detailed explanation of the member's role in the industry, as well as how new brewing techniques, changing consumer tastes, and developing economic trends have affected production and business models.

Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Working Group will be held on Wednesday, October 26, 2016, at 2:00 p.m. at the FFA Enhancement Center, located on the DMACC Campus at 1055 SW Prairie Trail Parkway, Ankeny, Iowa.

STAFF CONTACT: Christin Mechler (515-281-6561) christin.mechler@legis.iowa.gov